

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1
INCIDENT NO. 2003- 070
DATE: June 25, 2003 Time 5:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** - Severe thunderstorms with heavy rain, hail, and high winds up to 85 miles per hour (mph), moved through portions of North Dakota beginning June 21 and continuing.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** Two drivers sustained injuries when their semi trucks were blown over by high winds north of Fargo.
3. **DAMAGES:** Beginning June 21, a slow-moving cold front moved through the Dakotas and Minnesota, producing a series of severe weather episodes. The National Weather Service (NWS) of Grand Forks indicated the storms caused localized flooding and wind damages.

Barnes County officials reported severe winds damaged roofs, fences, trees, and caused power outages throughout Valley City on June 24-25. One mobile home had its roof blown away. Wind damage sustained by the Peak Grain Elevator was estimated at \$350,000.

Representatives of Minnkota Power Cooperative indicated in a preliminary report that high winds damaged seven 345 KV transmission structures in Cass County; damage was estimated between \$450,000 and \$600,000. Eighteen 345KV transmission structures were damaged in Barnes County; damage estimates range between \$1,050,000 and \$1,400,000.

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) officials indicated winds damaged four 115KV transmission structures in Barnes County along with 13 115KV transmission structures in northern Cass and southern Traill Counties. Total damage was estimated to be \$200,000.

Officials from Cass County Electric Cooperative reported 30 poles were downed in Cass and Barnes Counties causing between \$80,000 and \$100,000 in damages.

Reports from Cass County officials, indicated high winds uprooted hundreds of trees within the communities of Tower City, Buffalo, Gardner, and Arthur creating debris removal problems, power outages, and damage to homes. Several rural homes and out buildings also sustained damage. The cities of Argusville and Grandin also lost power. Due to the power outage, two lift stations in Tower City ceased functioning and some residents encountered sewer back up in their basements.

High winds on June 24 caused four semi-trucks to turn over north of Fargo near the Argusville interchange on I-29. Up to 300 gallons of diesel fuel spilled when one semi-truck overturned. N.D. Highway Patrol officials reported traffic was rerouted for 1.5 hours; normal traffic flow was then restored.

Officials report that some portions of Richland County recently received six to eight inches of rain. Soils throughout most of the county are considered saturated; drain and road ditches contain high water levels and standing water exists in most fields. Small stream flooding was reported.

Officials reported significant portions of Sargent County were experiencing saturated soil conditions. Six inches of rainfall occurred recently.

The Red River at Wahpeton is expected to crest at 11.2 feet on June 27, which is 1.2 feet above flood stage. The Red River at Fargo is expected to crest at 20.3 feet on June 29, which is 3.3 feet above flood stage.

A Flash Situation Report issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) indicated that hail on June 23 damaged 23,680 acres of crop, hay, and pasture land in Emmons County. A Flash Situation Report for Stutsman County indicated that 27,400 acres of crop damage occurred due to excessive rain, hail and high winds on June 23.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Responders include fire departments, dispatch centers, emergency medical services, law enforcement, county and city maintenance crews, rescue squads, park boards, public works and emergency management officials.

STATE: Agencies monitoring conditions include the Governor's Office, State Radio Communications, North Dakota Highway Patrol, N.D. Department of Human Services, the N.D. Department of Transportation and the Division of Emergency Management.

FEDERAL: National Weather Service (NWS) issued periodic weather reports. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security monitored conditions.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: NWS weather spotters relayed information concerning storm conditions.

The American Red Cross is conducting damage assessments in Barnes County and is currently assisting one homeowner.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Richland County and township officials have closed some roads and bridges in low-lying areas.

Fire department, emergency medical service, law enforcement, emergency management, and ambulance personnel from the cities of Fargo, Arthur, Grandin, Gardner, Argusville, Harwood, Buffalo, and Hunter checked on residents and assisted in initial debris removal.

The N.D. Highway Patrol rerouted traffic in the Argusville area where four trucks were overturned. The N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) provided assistance with cleanup efforts.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Minnkota Power, Cass County Electric Cooperative and WAPA officials continue to assess damage to transmission structures and lines and continue to implement power restoration.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director